

Written Testimony of Representative Garey Bies Assembly Committee on Public Health & Safety Assembly Bill 93 – Providing Tobacco Products to Minors

Good afternoon Committee members. I appreciate the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of Assembly Bill 93, relating to providing tobacco products to minors. I will be brief.

Assembly Bill 93 is a very simple bill and was first brought to my attention by an assistant district attorney from my district. This bill aims to close a loophole in Wisconsin law as it pertains to providing tobacco products to minors.

Currently, it is against the law to purchase cigarettes and provide those cigarettes to minors. However, this prohibition does not extend to other tobacco products. Assembly Bill 93 very simply extends this prohibition to cover other tobacco products.

While this legislation may be simple, its importance should not be underestimated. We are all familiar with the health hazards associated with smoking, but other types of tobacco products are not safe alternatives to cigarettes. As the cost of a pack of cigarettes rises ever higher, it is important that our youth do not turn to other tobacco products. Current law enables our youth to obtain tobacco products legally. Assembly Bill 93 will close this loophole.

Last session as AB 154 this legislation passed unanimously out of committee before it stalled. I hope that you will support Assembly Bill 93 both in Committee and throughout the legislative process.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you.

First for Wisconsin!